

H U M A N R I G H T S W A T C H

The 2015 Human Rights Watch Annual Report highlights the work of our Multimedia Team by connecting photos, and text to videos on HRW.org/2015.

Look for the **Symbol** throughout this report to know when an accompanying video is available to watch.

Belkis, 15, and her sister Parvin, 13, sew religious clothing that they sell in the local market. Both sisters married at young ages due to their family's extreme poverty. Their husbands abandoned them and no longer financially support them; they rely on making handicrafts to scrape out a living,

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HUMAN **ANNUAL REPORT / 2015** RIGHTS WATCH

#### Dear friends.

Your support this year enabled us to remain a principled and effective voice in tumultuous times. We helped save lives amid conflicts and repression from Burundi to Syria. As these conflicts sparked the largest flows of humanity since World War II, we acted to protect people seeking refuge.

In Syria, we succeeded in keeping international attention on the government's use of barrel bombs and chlorine in attacks on civilians. The government appeared to stop its use of chlorine by mid-2015 and to decrease significantly its use of barrel bombs by the last quarter of 2015. Yet its indiscriminate attacks remain a major threat to civilians.

Atrocities of this sort led approximately one million asylum-seekers to cross the Mediterranean in 2015. We documented their plight every step of the way—the war crimes and persecution they fled in their countries of origin, the abuses they faced along the perilous journey to safety, and the inadequate reception they met in many destination countries. Most recently, in February 2016, we helped persuade the European border agency Frontex and the Greek coast guard to step up their rescues of people foundering in the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece.

As we addressed current crises, we did not ignore past abuses. Relying on our research and at times our expert testimony about atrocities, courts opened trials for international crimes against former heads of state from Côte d'Ivoire (Laurent Gbagbo) and Chad (Hissène Habré). With our help, courts convicted Rwandan rebel leaders for crimes committed against Congolese civilians as well as coercive fundraisers for Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers as they forcibly recruited children to be soldiers.

Your partnership is particularly important in these challenging times of extremist attacks, repressive counterterrorism responses, and widespread crackdowns on civil society. We are grateful for your steadfast support in upholding the values on which human rights depend. Thank you for standing with us.

Classon QUASE/

HASSAN ELMASRY, BOARD CO-CHAIR

JOEL MOTLEY, BOARD CO-CHAIR

**KENNETH ROTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

# WHAT OUR RESEARCHERS DO

Frontline investigations by expert researchers lie at the heart of Human Rights Watch's work.

Climate Change, Environmental Threats & Human Rights in Kenya's Turkana County HRW.org/2015#v2



Internally displaced villagers carry firearms while guarding livestock near Lowarengak in Turkana county, Kenya.

© 2014 Brent Stirton/Reportage by Getty Images for Human Rights Watch

They respond credibly and timely to violations by:

#### **Being on the front line**

Our researchers go to the scene of atrocities to interview victims, witnesses, local activists, and government officials. They gather credible, first-hand information, whether in war zones, areas under severe repression, or other hostile environments.

#### **Checking and cross-checking facts**

Our researchers visit victims and witnesses wherever they can be reached, including refugee camps and prisons. They examine data from military, hospital, morgue, and court records. They use photos, video, and sometimes technologies such as forensic analysis and satellite imagery. They use a range of tools to piece together as complete and accurate a picture as possible of abuses.

## **Partnering with community**

Our researchers immerse themselves in the communities, often live in-country, speak the local languages, and partner with domestic organizations. They build networks of trust that can be relied on in a crisis to safely gather reliable facts. They also help to ensure that the concerns of local groups are heard by those with the power to make a difference.

#### **Exposing evidence of abuses**

Our researchers shine a light on wrongdoing by writing reports, news releases, and opinion pieces, often supplemented by photographs and video. They use both traditional and social media to shape public debate. The resulting media barrage helps make certain that policymakers learn of our findings and recommendations for change.

#### Convincing key decision-makers to act

Our researchers share their findings with governments, international donors, and others who hold power that can effect change. They press powerful actors to use their influence to curb abuse.

#### **Providing expertise**

Working behind the scenes and drawing upon their on-the-ground experience, our researchers respond to a thirst for first-hand, credible information from journalists, political leaders, and others. They appear on the news, testify at government hearings, and serve as expert witnesses in criminal trials.

#### Staying the course

Our researchers stay with an issue until they get results. They recognize that some problems are entrenched and require long-term efforts to resolve.

#### "We are making it harder for governments to spy on people."

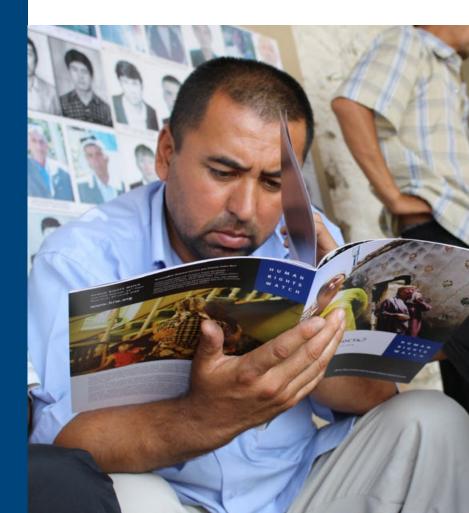


© Human Rights Watch

#### "Religious police arrested, beat, and sexually assaulted transgender individuals simply for walking down the street in women's clothing."



© Human Rights Watch



**CYNTHIA WONG**. Senior Researcher, Business and Human Rights Program, Human Rights Watch. Cynthia co-authored a report that exposed the Ethiopian government's use of foreign spyware to hack into computers of opposition activists and journalists. Her work helped push the European Union to halt sales of surveillance technology by EU companies to repressive regimes.

**NEELA GHOSHAL**, Senior Researcher, LGBT Program, Human Rights Watch. With local partners like Justice for Sisters, Neela reported on abuses by religious police against transgender people in Malaysia, where cross-dressing is criminalized under Sharia law. Weeks later, a court ruled that a state Sharia ban was oppressive and inhumane.

> ern Kyrgyzstan, ut ethnic clashes Residents of the town of read a Human Rig that took place there in

© 2010 Ole Solvang for H Rights Watc





A Plant

POSING MASS EXECUTION OF CIVILIAN

© 2014 Ed Kashi/VII Photo for Human Rights Watch

SEEKING DIGNITY IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

**BRINGING** TORTURERS TO JUSTICE

© 2009 Victor Affaro for Human Rights Watc

## OUR GLOBAL IMPACT

Protecting vulnerable people

One of Human Rights Watch's roles is to amplify the voices of the world's most vulnerable people. We record the experiences of political prisoners, war victims, children forced into marriage, people dying in needless pain, and many others, and bring their plight to those who can make a difference. Here are some examples of how we changed lives in 2015.

## BRINGING TORTURERS TO JUSTICE



Former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré gestures as he leaves a courthouse in Dakar, Senegal, after an identity hearing on June 3, 2015. Habré, who has been in custody in Senegal since his arrest in June 2013, is now on trial in Dakar for torture, war crimes and crimes against humanity. © 2015 SEYLLOU/AFP/Getty Images

#### "If it weren't for Reed Brody and Human Rights Watch, my husband wouldn't be on trial."

**FATIME RAYMONDE** 

Habré's wife, in an interview with Al-Jazeera.

During Hissène Habré's brutal eight-year rule in Chad in the 1980s, his government carried out collective arrests and mass murders of perceived opponents. Government agents tortured people with electric shocks, deliberate burns, and bindings that caused paralysis. In March 2015, a Chadian court convicted 20 Habré-era security agents for these crimes. It ordered Chad's government and the convicted agents to pay millions of dollars in reparations to some 7,000 victims. After a 16-year campaign that victims waged with Human Rights Watch's help, a special court in Senegal also charged the former dictator himself with crimes against humanity. Habré's trial began in July 2015. The files of his political police, which we uncovered in 2001, provided the backbone for these cases. A verdict in the case is expected May 30, 2016.



**Sougui Mahamat Tahir** is one of the two survivors of the Yellow Truck Massacre, a 1982 episode still infamous in the town of Moussoro, in northern Chad. After Habré's agents arrested and tortured them, a group of 74 men were sent hundreds of miles into the desert in a vellow Toyota truck to be executed. As all the others were shot and killed. Tahir and a friend hid below a pile of corpses and were left in the desert.

*"I was woken up by vultures"* eating my leg. Even now I have nightmares and will never forget that day."



The Habré regime in Chad left more than 30,000 widows and 80,000 orphans. Haoua Matangar Belingar's father did not die in prison, but was a totally different man when he was released from the Piscine, the detention center set up within a former swimming pool. Half of his body was paralyzed from torture, which also left him with mental problems. He died a few years later. Without the earnings of the father, the family's economic situation deteriorated.

"It is not only Habré who must be *brought to justice, but everybody* who helped him."



**Charles Mbaireubeu** suffered serious mental harm after being subject to water torture, bindings, and beatings by agents of Habre's political police during 15 months in jail. Sometimes he cries when he remembers the time he spent in prison. Sometimes he just stares at people and says nothing.

*"Please, take my picture as well."* I need to tell my story, they need to know what Habré did to me."

09



#### "As survivors of torture, something is missing that only justice can heal."

#### SOULEYMANE GUENGUENG

Chadian activist and torture survivor who spent almost three years in Habré's prisons.

Hissene Habre Finally Facing Justice HRW.org/2015#v3



Habré's violent repression against the southern opposition in 1984 targeted not only rebels, but also civilians, in an episode known in Chad as "Black September." During an attack, Habre's political police burned **Ruth Riguilar's** village and killed her brother, five nephews and sister-in-law.

"My family was killed in front of my eyes, and I lost everything I had. I saw my village in flames. The strength that keeps me alive is the hope that one day Habré will be tried."



## CAMPAIGNING AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE

We reported on the Malawi government's failure to develop or enforce laws to protect children from marriage. Half of all girls in Malawi marry before age 18, putting them at risk of violence and abuse, and undermining their health, education, and future. In response

to pressure from Human Rights Watch and its local partners, the government set the minimum age of marriage at 18—an important step that now must be backed by constitutional change.

#### **VOICE OF A VICTIM**

*"I experienced* a lot of health problems during my first pregnancy because I was so young."

**ANONYMOUS**, married at 12.

Malawi: End Widespread Child Marriage HRW.org/2015#v4

#### **VOICE OF A VICTIM**

*"It gives me* more desire to live."

#### **DOÑA REMEDIOS RAMÍREZ FACIO**,

73-year-old woman, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, describing how palliative care helped her, even as she faced her own morality.



Many people with late-stage cancer suffer needlessly when they are unable to access affordable medicine that could alleviate their severe pain. Due to our advocacy with the Organization of American States, governments in North and South America in 2015 codified the first right to palliative care in an international human rights treaty. The tipping point came when we presented officials with our research from around the world showing massive suffering of patients at the end of life.

At the national level, our work prompted Mexico's government to introduce an electronic prescription system to simplify access to morphine, and to incorporate palliative care into its public insurance system. That will yield a major improvement in end-of-life care for an estimated 300,000 Mexicans who die each year requiring treatment for severe pain.



## **SEEKING DIGNITY IN END-OF-LIFE CARE**

## OVERTURNING Homophobic LAWS

After highlighting the Russian government's homophobia during the 2014 Sochi Olympics, Human Rights Watch helped secure an Olympic Charter ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation. After the Kazakhstan parliament passed discriminatory anti-gay legislation in February 2015, we drew attention to the country's bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics. We met with officials from the International Olympic Committee and urged them to raise the discriminatory legislation with the government of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's constitutional council later declared the pending anti-LGBT legislation unconstitutional.

Teresita Meléndez (right), who lost her son and her husband to paramilitary violence in Colombia, is shown a piece of her husband's clothing by a forensic investigator. The investigation carried out by the Attorney General's office found that paramilitaries under the command of alias "Cadena," head of the Heroes of the Montes de Maria Block of the AUC paramilitary group, killed her husband and son along with four other laborers and later hid the bodies in a cemetery in the town of San Onofre, Sucre. © 2007 Stephen Ferry/Redux



"The Colombian president has dismissed his country's high command just days after a damning Human Rights Watch investigation accused military leaders of complicity in murdering civilians and then framing them as querrillas."

THE TELEGRAPH (UK), July 7, 2015





## **EXPOSING** MASS EXECUTION OF CIVILIANS

They were known as "false positive" killings. Under pressure to show that it was winning the war against guerrillas, Colombia's army abducted and murdered children, farmers, people with disabilities, community leaders, and others. Soldiers placed weapons on their victims' bodies and reported them as enemy combatants killed in action. Our research and advocacy over four years—including multiple meetings with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos—kept the authority to try those responsible for these cold-blooded killings in civilian courts. That ensured they had the greatest chance for progress, rather than relying on the military's efforts to investigate itself. After our 2015 report implicated top army generals in these mass executions, President Santos fired the head of the army.

# **SEEKING SAFETY**

A dinghy floats empty off the coast of Lesbos, Greece, after those on board were rescued by the Greek coast guard. © 2015 ZALMAÏ for Human Rights Watch

### A safe place to call home.

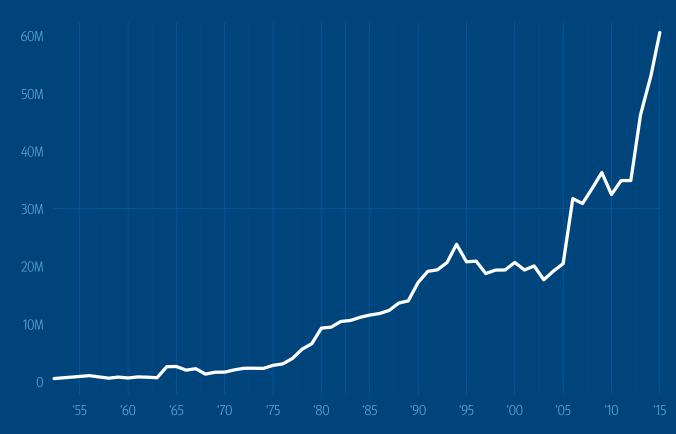
Worldwide displacement from conflict and persecution is at enormous levels and accelerating fast. Today, some 60 million people are seeking refuge after having to leave their homes—the largest number since the end of World War II. Half of the world's refugees are children.

Human Rights Watch defends people who are fleeing war and persecution. We demand respect for refugees' right not to be forcibly returned to oppression, torture, or death, and their right to seek asylum in any country they enter.

#### RESEARCHER

"Human rights are what every person is due as a human being. You don't need to be a citizen of a particular country to qualify for these rights."

BILL FRELICK, Director, Refugee Program, Human Rights Watch



**PERSONS OF CONCERN GLOBALLY** The UN refugee agency extends its protection or services to persons of concern, including refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, and others.

A person outside their home country who is unwilling or unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

#### **ASYLUM SEEKER**

A person who claims to be a refugee, and awaits a refugee status determination. Until that claim is examined fairly, the asylum seeker is entitled not to be returned and to benefit from humane treatment.

#### **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)**

People displaced within their own country, for reasons beyond their control such as persecution, war, or natural disasters.

A broad, inclusive term that is not defined in international law. It describes a foreigner entering, residing in, and leaving a country for any reason, and can refer to refugees or non-refugees.

#### **HOME COUNTRY**

A refugee's country of origin where they fear harm.

The country an asylum seeker first enters or sometimes travels through on their journey from danger to safety and protection.

#### **DESTINATION COUNTRY**

A stable, often wealthier country, where some asylum seekers hope to find more permanent refuge.

# The reasons the world relies on our work WHEN LIVES ARE AT RISK

Human Rights Watch uses a proven methodology to achieve long-term, meaningful impact. Our work has resulted in sustained, positive change in the behavior of governments, lawmakers, court systems, rebel groups, corporations, regional bodies, and the United Nations.

Military Use of Schools Puts Children in Danger HRW.org/2015#v6

Syrian rebels take position in a classroom at an empty school to observe the movement of government forces nearby in the Bustan al-Basha district in the northern city of Aleppo on October 26, 2012. © 2012 Philippe Desmazes/AFP/Getty Images



Meticulous research that provides irrefutable evidence of serious human rights abuse, often in the face of official denial.

## We examine and address root causes

Human Rights Watch's facts are concrete and specific. Our thorough and impartial investigations expose abuses that cause people to flee, as well as violations they face in their search for safety. We identify the policies that must be changed and the pressure that will be required to mitigate abuses driving migration and exacerbating conditions on the journey to refuge. This combination enables us to point the way toward addressing the causes of refugee flows and protecting those forced to flee.

#### We analyze every step of the journey

The global coverage of our research and advocacy is unique. It enables us to put refugee crises into regional perspective and to make connections across emergencies. We investigate and seek to end abuses that cause people to uproot their lives in their countries of origin. And we examine their treatment once they have crossed borders, pushing countries to protect them from violence and discrimination and provide shelter and services.

Governments are empowered to return those who cannot substantiate a fear of persecution, torture, or other serious harm. But we insist that procedures for making these determinations are fair, and that conditions of reception, possible detention, and return are humane. We also demand that nations receiving refugees not just divert people to other nations, especially those with less capacity.





Widespread communication of our research findings in a variety of formats and languages, in traditional and social media.



## We target government policies that politicize and scapegoat

We oppose political fear mongering about refugees and highlight the need for safe havens when people are forced to be on the move. We fight back when governments foment toxic rhetoric or abuse or refuse to restrain it.

#### We raise concerns that humanitarian groups often can't

As a human rights organization, we are often one of the only institutions reporting on border closures, detentions, deportations, and other protection concerns affecting refugees and asylum seekers. Humanitarian and local groups are often constrained in their ability to criticize governments where they operate for fear of expulsion or retaliation. Human Rights Watch raises the concerns of people at risk with media and in policy circles.

#### We intervene as events unfold

Our interventions are timely catalysts for action. We collect refugee testimonies from the front line of abuse and inject them into policy debates as they unfold. We serve as a source of independent, impartial fact-gathering and analysis, which we rapidly disseminate to maximize impact. When we map concrete steps for change, we enable policymakers, journalists, and other influential people to hone their response to the abuses we uncover.



Compelling advocacy that demands response from those who have committed abuses and that moves powerful local and international actors to wield their influence.

#### We seek systemic reform

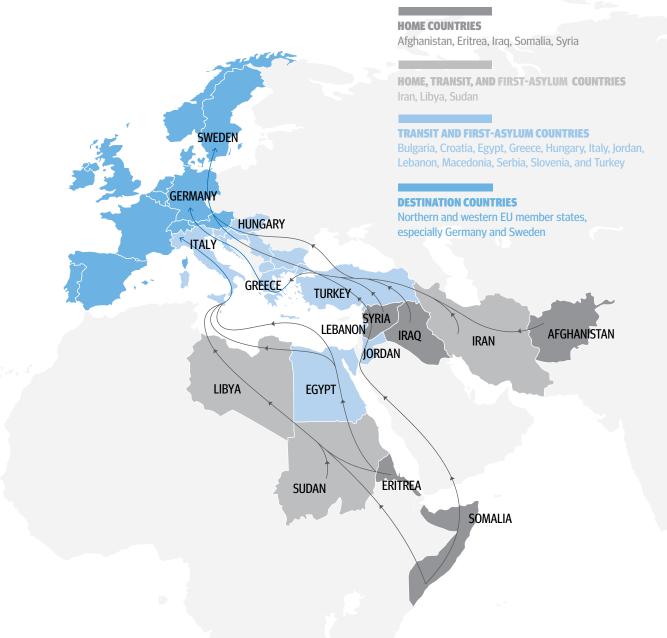
A gap in international law is that people have the right to flee their country and not to be returned to persecution but no right to enter another country. We highlight the human lives at stake to overcome that contradiction. The sheer volume of displaced people today means that current systems designed to respond to forced migration are fragile and inadequate. We seek to secure safe and legal avenues to guarantee that refugees and asylum seekers can reach safe territories without having to risk their lives or resort to criminal networks.

Our advocacy has an immediate, personal impact on individual lives but our definition of "impact" goes far beyond the individual. Ultimately, we seek systemic changes in policy and practice that will benefit not just a few individuals, but entire populations, for years to come.

Hamamatou, a 13-year-old polio survivor, was abandoned by her family after their village was attacked by anti-balaka forces in Central African Republic. Her brother attempted to carry her to safety, but grew exhausted, and had to leave her under a tree. When anti-balaka fighters found her two weeks later, Hamamatou described what happened: "The fighters said, 'We have found an animal. Let's finish it off." Another anti-balaka soldier intervened to save her life. Hamamatou was rescued and taken to a Catholic mission where she was living under the care of local priests.

© 2015 Marcus Bleasdale/VII for Human Rights Watch





#### MEDITERRANEAN

# **RISKING LIFE FOR SAFETY**

#### The world's deadliest migration route

An image of a lifeless toddler, lying face down on a beach, shocked the world. Three-year-old Aylan Kurdi drowned trying to reach safety in Europe. Aylan's family, originally from Syria, had boarded a smuggler's boat in desperation. His 5-year-old brother and mother drowned with him in the Mediterranean.

In April 2015, some 1,000 people died in a single week, making it the deadliest month on record along the world's most dangerous migration route. In 2015 more than 1 million people crossed the Mediterranean to reach European Union countries. At least 3,770 migrants and asylum seekers died at sea or went missing trying to reach Europe in 2015.

Hassan and his wife, Sheri, Iraqi Kurds, walk along train tracks in Röszke, Hungary, after crossing the border with Serbia.

© 2015 Daniel Etter for Human Rights Watch

Numerous factors triggered the recent waves of migration to Europe. Many people journeyed from countries torn apart by war or plagued by violence and insecurity. Some desired better opportunities and more financial security for their families. Most crossed by boat from Turkey to Greece or from North Africa to Italy. Restrictions at land borders prompted increasing numbers to cross by sea to the Greek Islands and continue on land through the western Balkans.

The best long-term solution to any refugee crisis is to end the atrocities, war, and repression driving flight. Documenting serious abuses in refugee-producing countries has long been a focus of our work. Asylum seekers, including children, who arrived in Italy and Greece described abuses that forced them to flee—such as indiscriminate violence, threats from armed groups, attacks on schools, and government repression.



Civilians are paying a heavy price in Syria's bloody armed conflict. After five years and a reported 250,000 deaths, 11 million people have fled their homes, including 4.6 million who have left the country. Those still inside Syria are trapped between government forces and armed groups that have wreaked havoc on their country-recruiting their children as soldiers, attacking their homes and schools, and torturing and detaining their neighbors, killing many. Previously thriving neighborhoods have been pulverized. Food, water, and medical care are scarce.

The cruelty of the extremist group Islamic State (also known as ISIS), which has forced many to flee, receives most media attention. But the Syrian military—and particularly its indiscriminate air attacks, often using "barrel bombs" filled with explosives and metal fragments—have killed far more civilians. Numerous Syrians described to us the sheer

terror of waiting the 30 seconds or so for the barrel bomb to tumble to earth from a helicopter hovering above them, not knowing where its deadly point of impact would be. Our research has evidenced that government forces deliberately attack civilian areas with these bombs, violating the laws of war. They are so imprecise that the Syrian military avoids dropping them near the front lines for fear of hitting its own troops. Because they are hard to aim at military targets, they are mainly an anti-civilian weapon.

In many wars, civilians can find some safety by moving away from the front lines. But the government's indiscriminate use of barrel bombs and other weapons in oppositionheld territory means that for many there is no safe place to hide. That ugly reality has played a major part in the displacement of some 50 percent of Syria's pre-war population of 22 million.

#### Inadequate action to contend with the chaos of flight to and through Europe

Many of those arriving on European shores face an uncertain future of unfair asylum procedures, closed borders, discrimination, and inhumane treatment. The horrific attacks in Paris in November 2015 increased calls to stem the flow into Europe and further tighten borders, even though all the attackers identified so far were European citizens.

In their flight from unending violence and abuse and their limited chance to live with adequate housing, schooling, and employment in neighboring countries, many refugees will head to Europe one way or another. Given that the question is less whether refugees will arrive than how they will do so, Human Rights Watch is pressing to secure more orderly avenues for safe passage for refugees. That will make it less necessary for them to risk

their lives and help replace the chaos of smuggler networks with a more humane process that also facilitates security screening.

#### People over pushbacks

For more than a decade, Human Rights Watch built a record of country-specific investigations on European and transit countries that were not doing what was required to protect refugees. We have long called for the European Union to stop forcibly pushing refugees to other countries by trying to outsource its responsibility for asylum.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled in 2012 that Italy had violated fundamental human rights by forcibly returning Somali and Eritrean boat migrants to Libya, a country through which they had transited. Our research had shown how migrants and asylum seekers in Libya often faced police violence,



#### **ONE SYRIAN REFUGEE'S JOURNEY**

"There's a small black bag on his back, containing just the essentials. A wheel of President's cheese. A blue jumper. A notebook. His identity papers and a Human Rights Watch report about the destruction of Haran al-Awamid hang from his neck in a waterproof pouch."

The Guardian (UK), June 9, 2015, in an article featuring HASHEM ALSOUKI, a resident of Haran al-Awamid, a town southeast of Damascus. We had documented the destruction of his hometown. Alsouki secured asylum in Sweden.



Hashem Alsouki © 2015 Sima Diab

Desperate Journey: Europe's Refugee Crisis HRW.org/2015#v8

arbitrary detention, and lack of access to fair asylum procedures. In its ruling the court repeatedly cited Human Rights Watch's research.

Since that decision, EU governments have stopped summarily returning asylum seekers and migrants rescued at sea to Libya. EU governments now disembark them in the EU where they can seek asylum.

During the latest waves of migration in 2015, rather than attempt maritime pushback operations, the EU assigned significantly more resources to search and rescue efforts in the Mediterranean. Heeding calls by Human Rights Watch and others to give priority to protecting people, not just borders, the EU border agency Frontex began to patrol more intensively, including in international waters where boats often founder, to rescue those at risk of drowning.



#### **VOICE OF VICTIMS**

#### **\*\*** There is no security, no hope, no health, no water. No peace since I was born."

ISMAEL, a 15-year-old Somali child whom Human Rights Watch interviewed in Italy in May 2015, describing why he left.

# \*\* Once, I was walking at night and I stepped on something, grabbed it to see what it was, and felt some kind of hair. It was a head. That's why we left.??

NOUR, a Palestinian from Syria, who fled for fear of ISIS, speaking to Human Rights Watch on the Greek Island of Kos in May 2015.

# It is tough, but I will manage. Back in Raqqa it was worse, just beheadings, beheadings all the time.

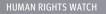
MOHAMMED, age 6, in an interview with Human Rights Watch in Hungary in September 2015.

## \*\* Every day, we treated the wounded from the bombardment and dug out the dead.

DOCTOR ALI, 25, who spent four years working at a hospital in Saraqib, Syria, in a September 2015 interview with Human Rights Watch [in Budapest, Hungary]. After witnessing a Syrian government barrel bomb kill his close friend-and after narrowly escaping injury himself-Ali decided to risk his life and seek refuge in Germany, where he hopes to continue his medical studies.

A woman from an Arab family cries after her family was rejected to enter a Kurdishcontrolled area from an ISIS-held village on November 16, 2015, near Sinjar, Iraq. Peshmerga forces carefully screened the displaced Iraqis as they arrived, fearing enemy infiltrators and suicide bombers. The Kurdish forces, with the aid of massive US-led coalition airstrikes, captured Sinjar from ISIS, known in Arabic as Daesh, moving the frontline south to Ghabosyeh. About a thousand villagers from Ghabosyeh fled north to Kurdish-held territory to take refuge in camps or onward as refugees to Turkey or Europe.

© 2015 John Moore/Getty Images



usted child cries on the railway tracks betw and Hungary as night falls, and her family argues nearby whether to cross into Hungary and face temporary detention © 2015 ZALMAÏ for Human Rights Watch

#### Pressing EU leadership to share responsibility and keep borders open

Human Rights Watch exposed violence targeting refugees and the human toll caused by cascading border closures. Our researchers documented unacceptable conditions for those arriving and the inability of Greece and Italy to protect and adequately process the claims of the massive number of asylum seekers.

We urged the EU to ensure the safe and orderly transfer of asylum seekers from Greece and Italy to other EU member states that can offer protection and process their claims fairly and effectively. EU ministers accepted to relocate 160,000 asylum seekers from these points of entry to other EU countries. Norway and Portugal recently stepped up relocation of asylum seekers from Italy and Greece. Implementation has been slow, however, and far more remains to be done.

## **LOOKING AHEAD** Setting a respectful agenda for action

Extremist attacks in Paris. Brussels. and elsewhere have contributed to a surge of animosity toward asylum seekers from the Middle East. Some EU leaders are eager to deflect responsibilities for refugees to countries like Turkey and are trying to force many of them back. We are pressing European nations to recognize that security would be enhanced, refugees protected, and European values upheld, if Europe were to increase the resettlement of refugees directly from the countries of first refuge such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey rather than making them risk their lives at sea to reach the EU. Offering such safe and legal channels would provide much-needed alternatives to the chaotic mass influxes that have cost so many lives at sea and overwhelmed officials on Europe's southern shores.

#### RESEARCHER

<sup>66</sup>No one pretends that these are easy issues for European countries. Human Rights Watch's is keeping policy makers focused on the real human lives at stake, and the feasible steps that can be taken to mitigate their suffering while still responding to Europeans' legitimate security concerns.<sup>99</sup>

JUDITH SUNDERLAND, Associate Director, Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch

#### **CALL TO ACTION**

**ADDRESS THE ATROCITIES.** The first priority is to address and curb the repression compelling people to leave their homelands.



#### **CREATE SAFE OPTIONS.**

EU countries should end border chaos. Rather than forcing people back to unsafe conditions, they should increase the resettlement of people needing refuge so they don't have to risk their lives at sea to find it.

#### **PROTECT THOSE AT SEA.**

When migrants do take to sea, EU leaders can save lives with robust search and rescue efforts.



# BANGLADES BURMA THAILAND MALAYSI Christmas Island (Australia) Cocos Islands (Australia)

#### SOUTHEAST ASIA

# **ADRIFT AT SEA**

Burmese soldiers arrested and beat 16-year-old Arefa's father and threatened to kill her family and other ethnic Rohingya if they stayed in Burma. The government seized their home. Men with knives and guns then forced Arefa onto a rickety boat. For two months, she was sick and throwing up in wretched conditions with little room to move. Like Arefa, some 10,000 refugees and migrants fleeing ethnic persecution in Burma or dire poverty in Bangladesh were adrift at sea in May 2015. Smugglers and traffickers abandoned these people without adequate food, water, or sanitation. Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand pushed their boats back to sea, claiming they had no duty to rescue or protect them.

Rohingya migrants sitting in a boat drifting in Thai waters off the southern island of Koh Lipe in the Andaman on May 14, 2015.

© 2015 Christophe Archambault/AFP/Getty Images

#### **\*\***The Thai, Malaysian, and Indonesian navies should stop playing a three-way game of human ping-pong, and instead should work together to rescue all those on these ill-fated boats.**?**

PHIL ROBERTSON, Deputy Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch

SEEKING SAFETY | SOUTHEAST ASIA 29



#### Desperate reasons for a desperate journey: persecution of Rohingya in Burma

Decades of repression by the Burmese military-dominated government and denial of rights to the mostly stateless Rohingya Muslim minority fueled the current exodus.

Human Rights Watch's on-the-ground investigations exposed the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya. We showed

how Arakan State's majority ethnic group, assisted by Buddhist religious leaders, government officials, and state security forces, engaged or assisted in these attacks. In a coordinated 2012 campaign, they burned tens of thousands of Rohingya homes. Since then, the government has forcibly moved more than 140,000 internally displaced Rohingya into segregated camps.

The Burmese government effectively denies Rohingya citizenship and classifies them as immigrants, even though many of their families have lived in Burma for generations. Rohingya are denied freedom of movement and access to education and employment. In 2015 the Burmese government stripped Rohingya of temporary identification cards that had previously allowed them to vote. The national parliament passed four laws targeting religious minorities—targeting foremost Muslims—to limit birth rates and restrict religious conversions and marriage to Buddhist women.

ingya migrants, including many young children, sit on a boat drifting in Thai waters off the southern island of Koh Lipe in the Andaman Sea on May 14, 2015. Passengers said several people had died over the previous few days before the boat was found.

© 2015 Christophe Archambault/AFP/Getty Images

By mid-2015 as many as 31,000 Rohingya fleeing persecution in Burma and migrants from Bangladesh turned to smugglers to take them across the Andaman Sea. After Rohingya made the dangerous sea crossing, they often traveled by land across Thailand to reach Malaysia-a relatively affluent, Muslimmajority country.

That changed in 2015 when Thai officials cracked down on smuggling routes, following the discovery of mass graves of Rohingya victims on the Thai-Malay border. When the second leg of the journey on land collapsed, smugglers abandoned the boats at sea.

As events unfolded, Human Rights Watch deployed researchers to the front line. We detailed how brutal trafficking and extortion networks, operating with the complicity of government officials in Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, and Thailand profited from the desperation and misery of some of the world's most persecuted and neglected people.

Burmese Security Forces Target Muslims HRW.org/2015#v9

#### RESEARCHER

**\*\***People who are treated as human beings with dignity and some level of opportunity at home don't usually want to die at sea.<sup>99</sup>

DAVID MATHIESON, Senior Researcher, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch.



**ROHINGYA** are a vulnerable Muslim minority in Burma, who face statelessness and systematic persecution.

**SMUGGLERS** help willing clients who are looking to cross borders undetected for payment.

**TRAFFICKERS** move people against their will or by deceiving them, and exploit them.

> A young girl suffering from infected heat rash on her face and body, May 24, 2015, in Sittwe, Burma. Since 2012, many ethnic Rohingya Muslims have been forced to live in displaced persons camps in western Burma. The Burmese government has long persecuted the Rohingva, who are effectively denied citizenship despite living in Burma for generations. Thousands of Rohingyas try to escape repression and the misery in the camps by crossing the Andaman Sea on small fishing boats hoping to reach Malaysia. Many of those who embark on the perilous sea journey fall into the hands of human traffickers who charge high prices in return for their freedom.

© 2015 Jonas Gratzer/Getty Images



Ethnic Rohingya migrants pass food supplies dropped by a Thai army helicopter to others aboard a boat drifting in Thai waters off the southern island of Koh Lipe in the Andaman Sea on May 14, 2015.

© 2015 Christophe Archambault/AFP/Getty Images

#### Plight on the high seas

The Indonesian, Malaysian, and Thai governments intercepted and towed the unseaworthy smugglers' boats back out to the high seas. Even after the boats had drifted for days or weeks without adequate food or water, these countries claimed they had no duty to rescue or protect the people onboard. These measures resembled Australia's inhumane practices of towing "illegal boat arrivals" out to sea, and returning people to countries with appalling rights records after only cursory screenings.

#### Sparking government responses to save lives

Human Rights Watch sounded the alarm and drove media coverage of the maritime exodus as the emergency evolved. We identified how countries in the Asia Pacific region refused to act, even when boatloads of desperate people were stranded in their waters.

The intense media scrutiny that we generated helped to compel governments in the region to convene in Bangkok at the first-ever emergency conference on boat migrants. That resulted in a written agreement to stop boat push backs

## LOOKING AHEAD **Preventing future** maritime exoduses

Human Rights Watch's investigations into the plight of one of the world's most persecuted people remain vital. Amid an intensifying climate of anti-Muslim sentiment and continued repression in Burma's Arakan State, the military-dominated government held national elections in November 2015 that excluded the Rohingya. With a new government taking over, we are stepping up calls to stop discrimination and persecution in Burma—which, if left unaddressed, could spark renewed exoduses of Rohingya boat people. We also continue to press countries in the region, including Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, to fairly process Rohingya asylum seekers whose lives are at risk.

and step up air and sea rescue efforts. Our pressure convinced Indonesia and Malaysia to take in thousands of Rohingya boat people and to grant humanitarian agencies access to them.

#### Securing justice

In addition, the Thai government in mid 2015 arrested an army lieutenant general and more than 50 other Thai officials and gang members for involvement in Rohingva trafficking-a major breakthrough that Human Rights Watch has sought for years. We will monitor the cases to ensure that proceedings are fair and witnesses are protected.

#### **CALL TO ACTION**



#### **STOP THE DISCRIMINATION.**

The Burmese government should end its discrimination against the Rohingya, including with respect to citizenship.



#### **RESCUE BOATS.**

When Rohingya do flee, front-line countries should stop pushing back Rohingya boats.



#### **PROSECUTE TRAFFICKERS.**

Southeast Asian countries should prosecute those who take advantage of the Rohingya desperation to engage in human trafficking.

US Border Patrol agents take undocumented immigrants into custody on May 23, 2014, in McAllen, Texas. Tens of thousands of immigrants, many of them children from Central America, have crossed illegally into the United States from Mexico in recent years.

M25286

© 2014 Charles Ommanney/Reportage by Getty Images

UNITED STATES AND CENTRAL AMERICA

## **LOCKING UP FAMILIES**

"Beatriz" fled to the United States from Honduras with her 11-year-old son after gangs threatened to forcibly recruit him. They were locked up together in a US immigration detention center for 10 months. Beatriz told us that her son began to spend all day sleeping. He said, "Mom, I just want to sleep so that when I wake up we'll be free." Mothers and children fleeing violence in Central America shouldn't be treated as criminals. They pose little if any flight risk or danger to communities. They shouldn't be put in detention—which causes anxiety, depression, and even long-term cognitive damage in children. It needlessly puts children in harm's way and punishes families fleeing for their lives.

BORDER PAT

# MEXICO

**UNITED STATES** 

**HOME COUNTRIES** El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

**TRANSIT AND FIRST-ASYLUM COUNTRIES** Mexico

**DESTINATION COUNTRIES** United States

#### RESEARCHER

"It's very hard to see young children, toddlers in detention. They don't understand what is happening. It is cruel to incarcerate kids."

CLARA LONG, Researcher, US Program, Human Rights Watch

Central American immigrants await transportation to a US Border Patrol processing center after crossing the Rio Grande from Mexico into Texas on July 24, 2014. Tens of thousands of undocumented immigrants, many of them families or unaccompanied minors, crossed illegally into the United States where they were apprehended by federal agents. The Rio Grande Sector of the border has the heaviest traffic of illegal crossings of the entire US-Mexico border.







GUATEMALA HONDURAS



#### DESPERATE REASONS FOR A DESPERATE **IOURNEY:** HONDURAS

In fall 2014, we reported how Hondurans fleeing threats of violence were met with fast-track screening procedures by US border patrol agents who deported them without an opportunity to claim asylum. That violates international law when persecution, torture, or other serious harm could result upon return.

rates in the world. Gang violence is epidemic. Gangs exert influence over entire neighborhoods, levying a "war tax" on residents and local business people. They target poor or marginalized youth for recruitment and sexual harassment. Honduran institutions responsible for public security are ineffective and marred by corruption.

Honduras has one of the highest murder

That reality doesn't necessarily mean all Honduran migrants claiming a need for protection should be granted asylum. But we found that US border patrol agents did not sufficiently scrutinize their claims to ensure that people were not being deported to serious risk of harm upon return.

#### **VOICE OF A VICTIM**

**<sup>cc</sup>**I am fleeing, not leaving. Fleeing from my country because of the violence. Because where I live a gang has taken over.... Then they tried to kidnap my [seven-year-old] son."

MATEO S., from Honduras deported from the United States



#### **Migration drivers: Insecurity** and violence in Central America

Migrants from Central America and Mexico seek to enter the United States without authorization for many reasons. Some seek refuge from danger. Others seek economic opportunity or reunification with family. In Central America, extraordinary violence, much related to gangs and the drug trade, has pushed many to flee the region. Local officials may be corrupt, complicit with gangs, or unable or unwilling to provide meaningful protection. Such migrants and asylum seekers, many of them children, have long crossed Mexico to enter the United States.

US Border Patrol agents detain undocumented immigrants after they crossed the border from Mexico into the United States on August 7, 2015 in McAllen, Texas. The state's Rio Grande Valley corridor is the busiest illegal border crossing into the United States. Border security and immigration have become major issues in the US presidential campaigns.

© 2015 John Moore/Getty Images



#### **Obama administration** changes course

The US government started to detain women and children in the summer of 2014, during a migration surge from Central America. Between October 2013 and 2014, some 55,000 Central Americans and their children crossed the US-Mexico border-an increase of nearly 500 percent.

Locking up migrant families while immigration courts considered their asylum claims used to be extremely rare. Most mothers and children were released on bail or with tracking devices. But the Obama administration contended that this new influx justified expanding family detention to deter other families from crossing into the United States.

Immigration officers implemented a "no release" policy. The Department of Homeland Security established new detention facilities, two of them in Texas. That increased the US government's capacity to lock up families from 100 to 3,000 beds.

#### Raising awareness of family detention

Human Rights Watch was at the forefront of pushing back on the US government's detention of families. We interviewed immigrant detainees in every family detention center. We spoke with some of the 603 mothers and children detained in a temporary New Mexico facility. Half of the children were under 7-years-old. Many were toddlers or still nursing. Their stories illustrated the system's heartbreaking failures in handling families seeking asylum. We helped form a coalition dedicated to ending family detention.

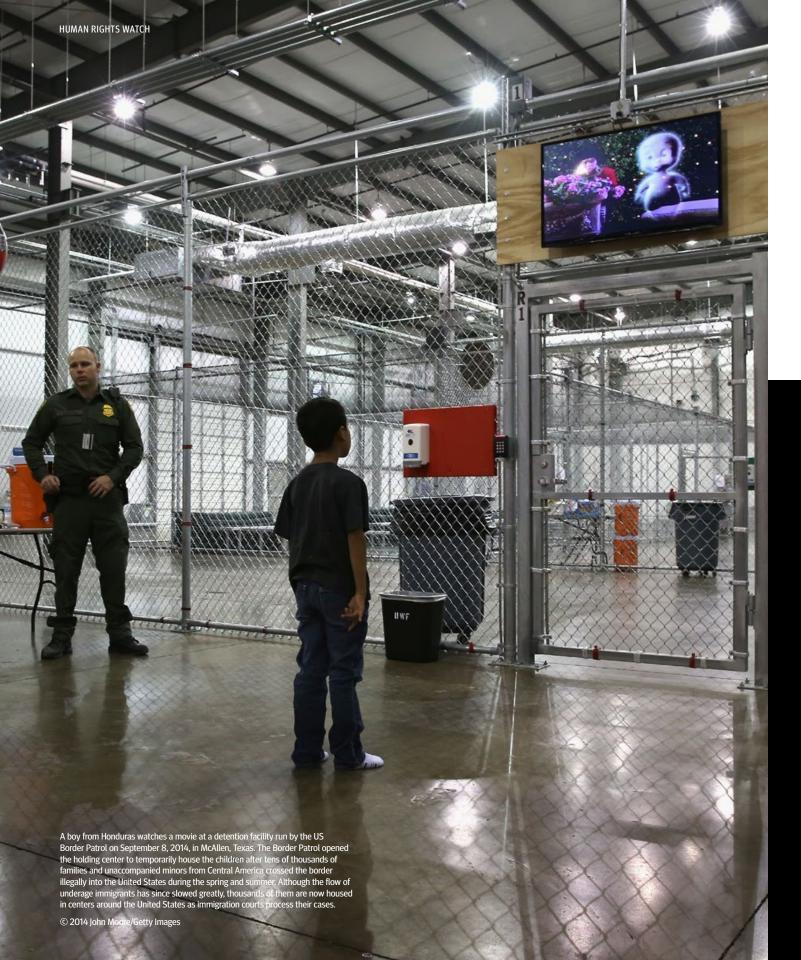
Honduran migrants Maria Celeste Castro and her daughter Melida Patricio, 2, wait as a Border Patrol vehicle arrives to transport their group to a processing center after they crossed the Rio Grande into Texas on July 24, 2014.

© 2014 John Moore/Getty Images

#### **VOICE OF A VICTIM**

#### **"I notice her** losing weight. She just won't eat."

MARLEEN V., from El Salvador, describing her two-year-old daughter, with whom she had been detained for two weeks at the time she spoke with Human Rights Watch.



#### The courts step in

Courts began to rule an end to family detention. In February 2015 a federal judge required immigration officials to begin individually evaluating asylumseeking families for release and setting bond where appropriate. It criticized the Department of Homeland Security's "no release" policy.

Then a federal court in California found that the family detention system violated an 18-year-old legal agreement obligating the government to treat migrant children humanely and to house them in non-jail facilities licensed to care for children. The litigators representing

the interests of the children in this case repeatedly consulted with our expert.

#### Deterrence is not a valid basis for immigration incarceration

US immigration officials conceded that prolonged family detention was not an effective strategy. They agreed to stop detaining families as a strategy to deter other future migrants. They also created new oversight mechanisms for family detention, committing to review every 60 days the custody status of families detained more than three months.

## LOOKING AHEAD **Reforms to treat** people humanely

To safeguard Central American asylum seekers who are forced to flee their homes, Human Rights Watch will raise awareness of the impact of Mexico's efforts, with US funding, to stem the flow of those seeking safety in the United States. In both the United States and Mexico, we will demand that those seeking refuge from gang violence and other abuses are treated fairly, with respect for their due process rights and protection from summary removal to their home countries.

#### US government releases families and children

In June 2015, we briefed several members of Congress on issues to raise in their visit to family detention centers. Soon after that trip, the government began releasing a majority of mothers and children within weeks if they could show a seemingly legitimate claim for asylum or other relief. This is a significant victory that could help thousands of mothers and children who are fleeing persecution and dramatically reduce family immigration detention.

Torn Apart: Families and **US Immigration Reform** HRW.org/2015#v10

#### **CALL TO ACTION**



DON'T DETAIN CHILDREN. The United States should end the detention of asylum

seekers, especially children.



#### **RESPECT DUE PROCESS.**

The United States and Mexico should give people fleeing violence in Central America a chance to tell their stories through fair screening and asylum procedures.



#### **PROVIDE COUNSEL** FOR CHILDREN.

The United States should appoint lawyers for unaccompanied children instead of expecting them to represent themselves in deportation proceedings.

"Refugees are among the world's most vulnerable people. Answering the call to defend their rights is among our most important priorities. It reinforces the values of humanity and dignity that protect us all."

**KENNETH ROTH,** Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

IFICEP



# **KYOU**

Thailand: Toxic Water, Tainted Justice HRW.org/2015#v11

Chanthira (2nd from left), in her mid-30s, with her family in Lower Klity Creek village. Kanchanaburi, Thailand.

© 2014 Paula Bronstein/Getty Images for Human Rights Watch

Thank you for standing with us.



With your partnership, we remained a voice of principle and reason in the face of enormous challenges to our most basic values. Even in these trying times, we investigated human rights violations, pressured governments and others who hold power to end these abuses, and helped save lives worldwide.

Human Rights Watch does not accept any government funding. We rely entirely on the generosity and support of our partners and friends listed in the following pages. By championing the universal principles of justice and dignity, every contributor is critical to sustaining the vibrancy and impact of the human rights movement.

MICHELE ALEXANDER DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. **DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL INITIATIVES** 

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Excellent multimedia story-telling about Central African Republic, not by a news org but a human rights group features.hrw.org/features/Unrav... 12:27 PM - 2 Jan 2015

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TATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES					UNAUDITED EURO (1.11)* EURO (1.36)			
or the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015		TEMPODADUV	2015	USD		TEMPODADUV		
UBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2015 FY TOTALS	2014 FY TOTALS	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2015 FY TOTALS	2014 FY TOTALS
ublic Support:								
Contributions and grants	26,116,526	22,564,424	48,680,950	56,035,960	23,455,289	20,265,141	43,720,430	41,202,91
Special Events	17,316,301	-	17,316,301	15,360,029	15,551,794	-	15,551,794	11,294,13
Total Public Support	43,432,827	22,564,424	65,997,251	71,395,989	39,007,083	20,265,141	59,272,224	52,497,05
evenue:								
Net investment income	4,074	660,254	664,328	14,125,748	3,659	592,975	596,634	10,386,57
Net investment income from limited partnerships	-1,01	1,611,296	1,611,296	1,925,248		1,447,107	1,447,107	1,415,62
		1,011,290				1,447,107		
Publications	34,276	-	34,276	33,093	30,783	-	30,783	24,33
Other	204,012		204,012	151,359	183,223	-	183,223	111,29
Total Revenue	242,362	2,271,550	2,513,912	16,235,448	217,666	2,040,082	2,257,748	11,937,82
Net assets released from restrictions	37,581,523	(37,581,523)	_	-	33,752,019	(33,752,019)	-	-
Total Public Support and Revenue	81,256,712	(12,745,549)	68,511,163	87,631,437	72,976,768	(11,446,796)	61,529,972	64,434,88
XPENSES								
ogram Services	1							
•	7 450 070		7 450 070	( )() 7(0	( (00.010		( (00.010	4 COF 71
Africa	7,459,970	-	7,459,970	6,263,768	6,699,810	-	6,699,810	4,605,71
Americas	2,254,139	-	2,254,139	2,435,010	2,024,445	-	2,024,445	1,790,44
Asia	6,434,934	-	6,434,934	5,850,874	5,779,223	-	5,779,223	4,302,11
Europe and Central Asia	5,279,703	-	5,279,703	4,693,161	4,741,709	_	4,741,709	3,450,85
Middle East and North Africa	5,563,403	-	5,563,403	4,307,705	4,996,500	-	4,996,500	3,167,43
United States	2,808,310	-	2,808,310	3,215,729	2,522,147	-	2,522,147	2,364,50
Children's Rights	2,840,204	_	2,840,204	2,427,423	2,550,791	_	2,550,791	1,784,87
-	1,641,677		1,641,677				1,474,392	
Health & Human Rights		-		1,416,540	1,474,392	-		1,041,57
International Justice	1,800,021	-	1,800,021	1,686,769	1,616,601	-	1,616,601	1,240,27
Women's Rights	3,388,531	—	3,388,531	2,831,859	3,043,244	-	3,043,244	2,082,24
Other Programs	17,485,613	_	17,485,613	17,103,274	15,703,854	-	15,703,854	12,575,93
Total Program Services	56,956,505	_	56,956,505	52,232,112	51,152,718	-	51,152,718	38,405,96
ipporting Services								
Management and general	4,629,297	_	4,629,297	4,291,944	4,157,578	_	4,157,578	3,155,84
Fundraising	14,116,772	_	14,116,772	12,649,849	12,678,293	_	12,678,293	9,301,36
Total Supporting Services	18,746,069	_	18,746,069	16,941,793	16,835,871	_	16,835,871	12,457,20
Total Expenses	75,702,574	-	75,702,574	69,173,905	67,988,589	-	67,988,589	50,863,16
Total Change before Foreign Currency Adjustment	5,554,138	(12,745,549)	(7,191,411)	18,457,532	4,988,179	(11,446,796)	(6,458,616)	13,571,71
Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment	_	_	_	_	3,452,183	35,882,729	39,334,912	(7,572,847
Total Change in Net Assets	_	_	_		8,440,362	24,435,933	32,876,296	5,998,86
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	21,204,102	220,400,006	241,604,108	223,146,576	15,591,251	162,058,828	177,650,079	171,651,21
Net Assets, End of Year	21,204,102	220,400,000	241,004,100	223,140,370	15,571,251	102,030,020	111,000,017	17 1,001,21
	04 750 040		01750.010	01.00 / 100	0/ 004 /40		0/ 004 /40	45 504 05
Unrestricted	26,758,240	-	26,758,240	21,204,102	24,031,613	-	24,031,613	15,591,25
Restricted	-	207,654,457	207,654,457	220,400,006	-	186,494,761	186,494,761	162,058,82
Net Assets, End of Year	26,758,240	207,654,457	234,412,697	241,604,108	24,031,613	186,494,761	210,526,375	177,650,07
FATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION				USD			EURO (1.11)*	
r the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015			2015 51				· /	EURO (1.36)
SETS			2015 FY	2014 FY			2015 FY	2014 F
Cash and cash equivalents			42,909,967	36,010,846			38,537,502	26,478,56
nvestments, at fair value			98,248,917	98,447,671			88,237,491	72,387,99
nvestments, in limited partnerships			28,132,840	16,699,387			25,266,143	12,278,96
Contributions receivable, net			62.197.764	87,670,337			55,859,900	64,463,48
Other receivables			611,221	701,390			548,938	515,72
Prepaid expenses			997,213	852,778			895,598	
								627,04
Security deposits			243,569	250,880			218,750	184,47
Fixed Assets, Net			6,934,101	5,790,206			6,227,526	4,257,50
Fotal Assets			240,275,592	246,423,495			215,791,849	181,193,74
ABILITIES AND NET ASSETS LIABILITIES								
Accounts payable and accrued expenses			4,336,672	3,929,437			3,894,771	2,889,29
Accrued pension expense			265,831	561,303			238,743	412,72
· ·								
Deferred rent			1,260,392	328,647			1,131,960	241,65
Total Liabilities			5,862,895	<b>4,819,38</b> 7			5,265,474	3,543,66
OMMITMENT NET ASSETS								
Unrestricted			26,758,240	21,204,102			24,031,613	15,591,25
onrestricted								
				220,400,006			186,494,761	162.058.828
Temporarily restricted Total Net Assets			207,654,457 <b>234,412,697</b>	220,400,006 241,604,108			186,494,761 210,526,375	162,058,828 177,650,079

A complete version of the Human Rights Watch financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, is available at: HRW.org/financials



COVER PHOTO:

A Syrian refugee kisses his daughter as he walks through a rainstorm towards Greece's border with Macedonia, near the Greek village of Idomeni, September 10, 2015. Most of the people flooding into Europe are refugees fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries who have a right to seek asylum, according to the United Nations.

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Human Rights Watch Annual Report 2015 is inclusive of the organization's work and reflective of its supporters from July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015.



## TYRANNY HAS A WITNESS

HRW.org